



# **THE CATECHISM**

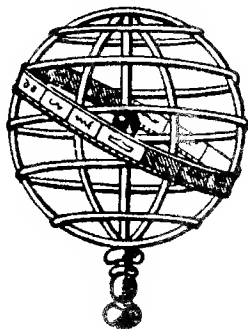
(Formerly "The Turner Catechism")

**OF THE  
A. M. E. CHURCH**

**Revised and Improved**



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# **THE CATECHISM**

**of the**

**A. M. E. CHURCH**

**(Formerly "The Turner Catechism")  
Revised and Improved**

**Containing**

**Brief Compendium of the History  
Doctrines and Usages of the  
African Methodist Episcopal Church**

**Including**

**A Series of Historical Questions on  
The Old and New Testament, The  
Whole Being Designed For The  
Instruction of the Young**

**"FEED MY LAMBS"**

**"Come, ye children, hearken unto me:  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord."**

**Published by the**

**A. M. E. SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION**

**H. A. BELIN, JR., Secretary-Treasurer**

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## REVISER'S PREFACE

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In offering to the Church the result of my labors in revising and improving "The Turner Catechism," the same having been done under the authority and instruction of Bishop W. F. Dickerson, Chairman of the committee appointed by the General Conference of 1884, to prepare the manuscript of "The Catechism of The A. M. E. Church," for reasons which he himself sets forth, I desire, first of all, to commend the wisdom and interest of Bishop Turner which led him to give to our children the first Catechism ever prepared especially for their instruction; also to pay a tribute to his unselfishness in voluntarily consenting to have the title of his Catechism changed in the manner in which I have chosen. It is but just to say that "The Turner Catechism" has been fruitful of blessed results, and that it was given to the Church at a time when there was an absolute necessity for such a publication. It has gone forth and not returned void. May the memory of its author be cherished by the Church to the remotest generation, by remembering that those who teach should obey their own instruction.

In presenting "The Turner Catechism" in a revised and improved form, I am conscious that it still possesses many defects, which perhaps, the careful study and research of associated intellects, enlightened by the Holy Spirit can only fully remedy.

The revision and improvement chiefly consist of additions, modifications, and eliminations of certain "quaint expressions" characteristic of the peculiar mental structure of the original author.

And now, to those who are truly laboring for the preservation and perpetuity of African Methodism, and who believe that the same can best be accomplished by the indoctrination of the young in the History, Doctrines and Usages of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, this, the result of my labor in revising and improving "The Turner Catechism," is faithfully submitted, with the sincere prayer that it may assist in making secure the future of the Church.

C. S. SMITH.

Bloomington, Ill.; October 1, 1884.

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## SPECIAL NOTE

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The undersigned Chairman of the Committee appointed by the General Conference of 1884 to prepare a new and original manuscript for "The Catechism of the A. M. E. Church," finding that the immediate performance of said task is impossible owing to my own ill-health and the pressing business care of a majority of the members of the committee, and being reliably informed that there is an imperative necessity for the immediate issuing of a Catechism, I have authorized and instructed the Rev. C. S. Smith, Corresponding Secretary of the Connectional Sunday School Union, and one of the members of the Committee appointed by the General Conference to prepare the manuscript of a new Catechism, to revise "The Turner Catechism," and adapt it to present needs, thus allowing the Committee the necessary time to worthily accomplish its works.

With sincere desire for the glory of God and the advancement of African Methodism.

Wm. F. Dickerson.

Columbia, S. C., October 1, 1884.

# **THE CATECHISM**

**African Methodist Episcopal Church  
Formerly "The Turner Catechism"**

**REVISED AND IMPROVED**

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## **PART I.**

## **DOCTRINES**

### **LESSON I.**

### **GOD**

1. **Who made you?**  
God.
2. **Who is God?**  
The creator of all things.
3. **What is God?**  
An uncreated Spirit.
4. **Where is God?**  
God is everywhere.
5. **What does God know?**  
God is all-wise; He knoweth all things,  
even the thought of our hearts.
6. **What can God do?**  
God is Almighty; He doeth whatever He  
will.
7. **How long has God existed?**  
God is eternal; He has lived always, and  
will live forever.
8. **What is the character of God?**  
"God is love."



9. **Is God Holy?**  
God is holy: He hateth all work of iniquity.
10. **Is God merciful?**  
The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.
11. **Is God just?**  
The Lord is just, rewarding the righteous, and punishing the wicked.
12. **Is God true?**  
He is the God of truth. He cannot lie.

## **LESSON II.**

### **THE PERSONS OF GOD**

1. **Are there more Gods than one?**  
There is none other God but one.
2. **Are there more persons in the Godhead than one?**  
There are three persons in the Godhead—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one.
3. **Is the Father God?**  
To us there is but one God, the Father.
4. **Is the Son God?**  
Christ is over all, God blessed forever, He is the true God.
5. **Is the Holy Ghost God?**  
The Holy Ghost is "the Eternal Spirit."
6. **In what name are Christians baptized?**  
In the name of the Holy Trinity—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

**LESSON III.****CREATION—THE WORLD**

1. Who made the world?  
God.
2. How long was God in making the world?  
Six days.
3. On what day did God rest?  
The seventh day.
4. What was the day called?  
The Sabbath day.
5. What do we call the Lord's day?  
Sunday.
6. What did God make on the first day?  
Light.
7. What did He call the light?  
Day.
8. What did He call the darkness?  
Night.
9. What did He make on the second day?  
The firmament.
10. What is the firmament?  
The sky.
11. What did God make on the third day?  
Land and water.
12. What did God make on the fourth day?  
The sun, moon and stars.
13. Which was called the greater light?  
The sun.
14. Which was called the lesser light?  
The moon.
15. What did God make on the fifth day?  
Fish and fowls.
16. What did God make on the sixth day?  
Beast and man.

**LESSON IV.****MAN**

1. Of what did God make man's body?  
Of the dust of the ground.
2. How did God make man's soul?  
God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul.
3. How does the soul and body differ?  
The body is material and mortal; the soul is spiritual and immortal.
4. Was man created good?  
He was; God created man in His own image.
5. In what did the image of God consist?  
In righteousness and true holiness.
6. What authority was given to man at the creation?  
God gave him dominion over every living thing.
7. Where did God place our first parents?  
In the Garden of Eden.
8. What law was given them?  
The law of perfect obedience.

**LESSON V.****THE FALL OF MAN**

1. Where did God place Adam and Eve?  
In the Garden of Eden.
2. What were they commanded to do?  
To take care of the Garden.
3. What were they allowed to eat?  
Of the fruits of the trees except one.
4. What tree was that?  
The tree of knowledge of good and evil.

5. **Did they obey this command?**  
No; being tempted of the devil they disobeyed.
6. **What did they do?**  
The woman ate of the forbidden fruit and gave to the man, and he likewise ate.
7. **What did they become then?**  
Sinners.
8. **What then happened to them?**  
God was displeased with them, and drove them from the garden.
9. **For what reason were they driven from the Garden?**  
That they might not eat of the tree of life and live forever.
10. **Was any curse put upon them?**  
Yes; that they should work hard all their lives.
11. **Did the curse extend any further?**  
Yes; that they should have sickness, pain and death.
12. **Are we affected by the fall of Adam?**  
Yes; his fall corrupted his posterity.
13. **How?**  
Adam was a representative of all who sprang from him; and consequently, they are born, under the curse put upon him.
14. **What is man's condition now?**  
He is sinful and miserable.
15. **Is there no way to get rid of sin?**  
Yes; by obtaining forgiveness from God.

## LESSON VI

### SALVATION THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

1. **For what purpose did Jesus Christ come from Heaven?**  
To save sinners.

2. Are all men saved through Christ?  
Yes, if they will believe in Him.
3. What did Christ do to save sinners?  
He became a man, lived, suffered, died and rose again.
4. How did he become a man?  
Though He was God, He took upon Him man's nature and was born of a woman.
5. What did Christ suffer for us?  
The abuse of the world, and the death on the cross.
6. Why did Christ thus suffer and die?  
To make atonement for the sin of the world.
7. How does His death atone for the sin of the world?  
By satisfying the justice of God.
8. Had Christ not died, what would have become of men?  
They would have been forever lost.
9. Did Christ make His atonement for all mankind?  
Yes; by the grace of God, He tasted death for every man.
10. What did Christ say about Himself?  
I am the way, the truth, and the life.
11. What else?  
No man cometh unto the Father but by me.
12. What proves Christ to have been man?  
He ate, slept, wept, hungered and thirsted.
13. What proves that He was God?  
In His own name He healed the sick, cast out devils, and raised the dead.
14. What took place when Christ was crucified?  
The earth quaked, the sun was darkened and the rocks were rent.

15. What did the wicked then say?  
"Truly this man was the Son of God."
16. What example is taught us in the life of Christ?  
Perfect goodness and true holiness.

## LESSON VII. THE DUTY OF MAN

1. What is the chief end of man?  
To serve and glorify God.
2. Who helps us to serve and glorify God?  
The Holy Ghost.
3. Who is the Holy Ghost?  
The Spirit of God.
4. How does the Spirit of God help us?  
He comes into our hearts to make us like God.
5. Does He come to us because we are good?  
No; He comes to sinners also.
6. Why does the Holy Ghost come to sinners?  
Because He is sent to make them holy.
7. Why is God so good to sinners?  
Because Christ loved them and died to save them.
8. When does Christ save sinners?  
When they repent and forsake their sins.
9. What else must we do to be saved?  
Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
10. What will God do if we repent and believe?  
He will pardon our sins for Christ's sake.
11. Does God only pardon for the sake of Christ?  
Yes, for His sake and not for our own.
12. What else will God do for us?  
He will send His Holy Spirit to make us holy.

13. **What do holy people always do?**  
They keep all God's commandments.
14. **What is the character of those who keep His commandments?**  
They are regarded as righteous.
15. **How; for their own sake?**  
No, for the sake of Christ.
16. **Then we receive the righteousness of Christ do we?**  
Yes, through Him alone we are made righteous and holy.

## LESSON VIII.

### PRAYER

1. **Where is Christ?**  
In Heaven, but His presence fills Heaven and earth.
2. **What does he do in Heaven?**  
He intercedes and prays for us.
3. **What then is He called?**  
Our Advocate.
4. **How are we to pray to God to be benefited?**  
In His name.
5. **What is it to pray in Christ's name.**  
To pray believing we shall be saved.
6. **What else is Christ for us?**  
Our Prophet, Priest and King.
7. **How is Christ our Prophet?**  
He teaches us God's will by His word and Spirit.
8. **How is He our Priest?**  
He gave himself a Sacrifice for us and prays for us.
9. **How is He our King?**  
He gives us laws; defends us, and conquers our foes.

10. **How then shall we come to Christ in prayer?**  
Humbly, yet boldly by faith.
11. **Why should we thus come to Christ?**  
Because Christ sympathizes with us when we suffer and are in trouble.
12. **What did Christ say about the children?**  
"Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not."
13. **What reason did He give?**  
"For of such is the Kingdom of Heaven."

## **LESSON IX**

### **THE CHURCH AND ITS SACRAMENTS**

1. **Before Christ ascended to Heaven, what did He tell His disciples?**  
"Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel."
2. **What does the word "Gospel" mean?**  
Glad tidings or good news.
3. **What are the glad tidings of the Gospel?**  
That Jesus Christ died to save sinners.
4. **To whom is the Gospel to be preached?**  
To every creature, or to a people.
5. **What came of preaching the Gospel?**  
The Christian Church.
6. **Who compose the Christian Church?**  
All true believers.
7. **How many Sacraments has the Church?**  
Two.
8. **What are they?**  
Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
9. **What does baptism signify?**  
The cleansing of the heart from sin.
10. **Does the water cleanse the heart?**  
No; it is the Holy Spirit; water is only the outward sign.



11. **What do you mean by the outward sign?**  
As water cleanses the body, so grace cleanses the soul.
12. **What do we become on being baptized?**  
Members of the Church of Christ.
13. **What is done in taking the Lord's Supper?**  
Christians eat bread and drink wine together.
14. **What does the bread and wine signify?**  
The body and the blood of Christ given to save sinners.
15. **Why do Christians partake of the Lord's Supper?**  
They take it in remembrance of Christ till His coming again.
16. **Who are at liberty to partake of this sacrament?**  
Members of the Church who repent of their sins and love one another.

## **LESSON X.**

### **THE RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD**

1. **What does the Bible teach us about the result of sin?**  
By sin, death came into the world.
2. **But does not Christ save all sinners from dying?**  
No; all must die; but Christ will raise them again.
3. **Will Christ raise us to life after we have been dead?**  
Yes; our souls do not die; it is only the body.
4. **Will he raise the body?**  
Yes; in the morning of the resurrection.
5. **What will then take place?**  
The soul and body will come together and live again.

6. Will the body ever die again?  
No; for the saints will be like Christ.
7. Will the body be raised just like it was buried?  
No; it shall be changed and made immortal.
8. Is it only those who imitate Christ here who will in the resurrection be like Him?  
Yes; and none others.
9. To what shall the wicked be raised?  
To the resurrection of damnation.
10. To what shall the good and holy be raised?  
To the resurrection of eternal life.
11. What will be the condition of those living?  
The righteous shall be changed and made glorious.
12. What will then happen to the wicked?  
They will be driven away into everlasting punishment.
13. What will become of the children then?  
Good children will be raised as the righteous.

## LESSON XI.

### THE JUDGMENT

1. Will Christ ever return to this world?  
He will, at the end of Time.
2. Will people then see Him?  
Yes, every eye shall see Him.
3. How will He come?  
Suddenly in great power, with His Holy angels.
4. For what purpose will He come the second time?  
To judge the living and the dead.

5. **How can He judge the dead?**  
He will first raise them from their graves.
6. **What will He then do?**  
Separate the wicked from the good.
7. **Where will the wicked then go?**  
To the place of everlasting misery.
8. **Where will the good then go?**  
To Heaven.
9. **What is Heaven?**  
Heaven is the throne of God.
10. **What kind of a place is it?**  
A place where the good are eternally happy.
11. **What shall take place when the judgment is over?**  
The world shall be destroyed, and a new earth shall be made where Christ will dwell with His saints forever.

## **LESSON XII.**

### **THE HOLY BIBLE**

1. **What good book should men revere?**  
The Holy Bible.
2. **What is the Bible?**  
The Word of God.
3. **What does the word Bible mean?**  
The Book.
4. **What does the Bible teach us?**  
The law of God and how to obey it.
5. **How is the Bible divided?**  
Into the Old and New Testaments.
6. **What does the Old Testament tell us?**  
All about the creation and the first ages.  
of the world.
7. **Of what does the New Testament tell us?**  
Of the life, crucifixion and the resurrection of Jesus, and the early history of the Church.

8. In what language was the Bible first written?  
The Old Testament in Hebrew, and the New in Greek.
9. Why is the Bible called the word of God?  
Because it was written by God's direction.
10. In what manner?  
Holy men wrote it as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
11. What proves the Bible to be from God?  
Because it teaches things that only God could know.
12. What are some of these things?  
How the world was created and what will be its end.
13. Can you name anything else?  
Yes; it tells about a heaven for the good and a hell for the bad.
14. Could a man have known these without the Bible?  
No; never.
15. If the Bible is so valuable, how should we treat it?  
We should love it and read it continually.
16. At what age should a child begin to study the Bible?  
Just as soon as he or she can read it.

### **LESSON XIII.**

### **THE MORAL LAW**

1. Has God given any special law to man?  
Yes; the Ten Commandments.
2. By whom were they given?  
By Moses on Mount Sinai.
3. Upon what were these commandments written?  
Upon two tablets of stone.

4. Where do we find these commandments recorded?

In the twentieth chapter of Exodus.

5. How did God first deliver them to men?

He clothed himself in fire and smoke and spoke with a voice of thunder.

6. What took place, while God was thus speaking?

The mountain trembled beneath him.

7. What did the people do?

Being awfully frightened, they cried out for God to stop.

8. What did God do then?

He taught His law to Moses, and Moses taught the people.

9. What are the Ten Commandments called?

The moral law.

10. Will you repeat the Ten Commandments?  
I will.

I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

III. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

IV. Remember the Sabbath day, to keep

it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the Seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

V. Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI. Thou shalt not kill.

VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.

VIII. Thou shalt not steal.

IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house; thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

## LESSON XIV.

1. What are we taught in the first commandment?

Our duty to God.

2. What are we taught in the second?

To worship no idol.

3. What does the third commandment teach?

Not to take the name of God in vain.

4. What does the fourth commandment request?

To keep the Sabbath day holy.

5. What does the fifth require?

To honor and obey our parents.

6. **What does the sixth forbid?**  
All kinds of murders and injuries.
7. **What does the seventh forbid?**  
All uncleanness and filthy language.
8. **What are we taught by the eighth?**  
Not to steal, cheat or rob.
9. **What does the ninth commandment forbid?**  
Lying, slander and speaking evil of others.
10. **What does the tenth commandment forbid?**  
All envying and coveting of our neighbor's goods.
11. **How did Jesus say we could keep them all?**  
By loving the Lord with all our hearts,  
and our neighbors as ourselves.
12. **Will you repeat the commandments in verse?**  
I will.

#### **The Ten Commandments in Verse**

1. Thou shalt have no other gods but me.
2. Before no idol bow thy knee;
3. Take not the name of God in vain;
4. Nor dare the Sabbath day profane;
5. Give both thy parents honor due;
6. Take heed that thou no murder do.
7. Abstain from words and deeds unclean;
8. Nor steal though thou art poor and mean;
9. Nor make a wilful lie; nor love it;
10. What is thy neighbor's do not covet.

#### **THE SUM**

With all thy soul love God above,  
And as thyself thy neighbor love.

## LESSON XV.

### PRAYER

1. What is prayer?  
Asking God for His spirit and grace.
2. Who has taught us to pray?  
Our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. What is the prayer he taught us called?  
The Lord's Prayer.
4. Can you repeat the Lord's Prayer?  
I can.

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

5. How many petitions are in the Lord's Prayer?

Six is the general estimate.

6. What is the first petition in the Lord's Prayer?

Hallowed be thy name. This is an address to God.

7. What is the second petition?

Thy kingdom come.

8. What is the third?

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

9. What is the fourth petition?

Give us this day our daily bread.

10. What is the fifth petition?

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

11. What is the sixth petition?

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.



12. Is God able and willing to give us the things we ask for in this prayer?  
O yes; for His is the kingdom, and the power and the glory.
13. Are we always to use these words in praying?  
No; Jesus said, "After this manner shall ye pray."
14. Then this is merely a form of petition of prayer, is it?  
Yes; but we ought to use this prayer, too, quite often.
15. Should children learn this prayer while young?  
Yes; as soon as they can talk they should learn it.

## LESSON XVI.

### THE APOSTLES' CREED

1. What is meant by creed?  
A form of words expressing articles of faith.
2. How many creeds are there?  
A large number are upon record.
3. What three have most generally been cited as authority?  
The Apostolic, Athanasian, and the Nicene Creeds.
4. Which of the three does the A. M. E. Church hold sacred?  
The Apostles' Creed.
5. Why does the Church not give its approval to the other two?  
Because they were drawn for a special purpose.
6. What was that special purpose?  
To refute the false doctrine of an impostor.
7. Who was the impostor?

Arius, a learned man, who lived in the fourth century.

8. **What false doctrine did he teach?**  
That Jesus Christ was inferior to God the Father.
9. **Who drew up the Apostles' Creed?**  
It is supposed they did it themselves while at Jerusalem.
10. **At what time?**  
Shortly after our Lord's ascension to Heaven.
11. **What reason is given for the Apostles adopting this creed?**  
That they might agree in points of doctrine.
12. **Then this was their guide after their separation was it?**  
Yes; that they might preach one faith wherever they scattered.
13. **Does the Apostles' Creed embrace the leading points of the Gospel?**  
We believe it does; and is so regarded by the Christian Church.
14. **Will you repeat the Apostles' Creed?**  
I will.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only begotten Son our Lord; and that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; that he arose again the third day; that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Church of God, the communion of saints, the remission of sins, the resurrection of the body, and everlasting life after death. Amen.

**LESSON XVII.****BAPTISM**

1. What is baptism?

An outward sign of an inward grace.

2. What is the outward sign in baptism?

Water applied in the name of the Father, and of the Holy Ghost.

3. What is the inward grace signified in baptism?

And death unto sin and a new birth unto righteousness.

4. What advantages are secured to baptized persons?

They are admitted to the visible Church of Christ, their relation to Him as the Mediator of the new covenant, and their title to the spiritual blessings belonging thereto are solemnly confirmed.

5. Is the baptism of infants who cannot make a covenant, worthless?

No, their parents make a covenant for them.

6. Is there a covenant of baptism?

There is.

7. Will you repeat it for me?

I will.

I renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, with all covetous desires of the same, and the carnal desires of the flesh, so that I will not follow nor be led by them.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only begotten son our Lord: and that he was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; that he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; that he rose again the third day;

that he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, and from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Church of God, the communion of saints, the remission of sin, the resurrection of the body and everlasting life after death. Amen.

Having been baptized, in this faith, I will obediently keep God's will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of my life. God being my helper.

## **PART II. HISTORICAL**

### **LESSON I.**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY**

1. In what time did God create the world?  
God made the heavens and the earth and all things in six days.
2. What took place on the seventh day?  
The Lord then rested from his work, and called the day holy.
3. Who was the first man and woman that God made?  
Adam and Eve.
4. In what state did God make them?  
God made them in a holy and happy state.
5. Did they continue in that state?  
No; they lost it by sinning against God.
6. What misery followed from that first transgression?  
Sin and death were brought into the world and spread among all the human race.
7. Who were the first two sons of Adam and Eve?  
Cain and Abel.

8. What sort of men were they?  
Cain was wicked and cruel; but Abel believed in God, and was a good man.
9. What dreadful thing did Cain do?  
He killed his brother Abel.
10. Was the Lord greatly displeased at this horrible murder?  
Yes; he set a mark on Cain, and sent him off to wander in the earth.
11. When wickedness had greatly spread in the earth, what judgment did God send?  
He sent a flood of water and drowned the world.
12. How was the flood produced?  
It rained forty days and nights, and the sea flowed over the earth.
13. How many were saved when the world was drowned?  
Eight persons, and a few living creatures of every kind.
14. How were they saved?  
In a great vessel called the ark.
15. Who were the eight persons saved?  
Noah and his wife, with three sons and their wives.
16. What were the names of Noah's three sons?  
Shem, Ham, and Japheth; and by them the world was peopled after the flood.
17. What was the rainbow a sign of?  
The Lord made it a sign that He would no more drown the world with a flood.
18. When men had increased in the earth, what great work was it they undertook?  
To build a city with a tower that should reach to Heaven.

19. **Why could they not go on with the work?**  
The Lord confounded their language, and they could not understand each other.
20. **What then became of them?**  
They were scattered abroad to people the different parts of the earth.
21. **What was the building called?**  
It was called Babel.
22. **When wickedness had again prevailed in the earth, whom did God choose as His servant?**  
Abraham, who was called the father of the faithful, and the friend of God.
23. **What was the first great instance of Abraham's obedience?**  
He left his own country at God's command not knowing whither he was to go.
24. **What was another instance of his obedience?**  
He was ready at God's command to offer up in sacrifice, his beloved son Isaac.
25. **Did God suffer him to offer up his son?**  
No; the angel of the Lord prevented him and he offered up a ram in the place of his son.
26. **Who were the two sons of Isaac?**  
Esau, the elder; and Jacob, the younger.
27. **Which of these two was God's chosen servant?**  
Jacob.
28. **What other name did God give to Jacob?**  
He gave him the name of Israel; and all his race were afterwards called by that name.

29. **How many sons had Jacob or Israel?**  
He had twelve sons.
30. **Who was the most famous of Jacob's sons?**  
Joseph, whom his brothers hated and sold into Egypt.
31. **What became of Joseph in Egypt.**  
He was cast into prison; but afterwards became a great ruler under Pharaoh, the king.
32. **Did he ever see his father's family?**  
Yes; his brothers came into Egypt to buy food and he made himself known to them.
33. **Did Joseph revenge himself on his brethren for their cruelty to him?**  
No; he sent them back to Canaan for his good old father; and all of them moved down to Egypt and lived there.
34. **Did the families of Israel continue in Egypt?**  
They continued there till another king Pharaoh made them slaves, and had their children drowned in the river.
35. **What then took place?**  
The Lord sent them deliverance by the hand of Moses.
36. **Who was Moses?**  
He was a child saved from the danger of drowning by King Pharaoh's daughter.
37. **How did God appoint him to deliver Israel?**  
The Lord spoke to him out of a burning bush and sent him to King Pharaoh.
38. **How did Moses prove that God sent him?**  
He performed signs and wonders in the sight of Pharaoh.

39. Did Pharaoh at once agree to let the people of Israel go?  
No; he refused to let them go.
40. What was then done to deliver the people?  
The Lord gave Moses power to smite Egypt with many plagues.
41. What was the last plague?  
An angel destroyed the first born of Egypt in one night.
42. Were any of the people of Israel destroyed?  
No; their houses were passed over by the angel.
43. When Pharaoh let Israel go out of Egypt, how did they go over the Red Sea?  
Moses, with his rod, divided the waters and the people went through on dry land.
44. What became of the Egyptians that followed them?  
When Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, the waters returned upon the Egyptians and drowned them.
45. To what country were the people of Israel traveling?  
They were traveling to the land of Canaan which God had promised them.
46. How long were they on their journey?  
They wandered on account of their sins, forty years in the wilderness.
47. How were they guided in the wilderness?  
God led them by a pillar of cloud by day, and a pillar of fire by night.
48. How were they fed on their journey?  
The Lord sent down from the sky food, called manna.



49. **How were they supplied with water?**  
Moses smote the rock with the rod, and the water gushed out and followed them.
50. **Did not God give them laws and rules to live by?**  
Yes; he gave them the Ten Commandments, and many other laws from Mount Sinai.
51. **Did the people obey these laws?**  
No; they often sinned against God, and were punished for their sins.
52. **Who brought them at last into the land of Canaan?**  
Moses being dead, Joshua brought them into the promised land.
53. **Did they behave themselves better, after they came to Canaan?**  
No; they often sinned and worshipped idols or false gods.
54. **How did God deal with them there?**  
When they served Him, he showed them favor; but when they were wicked, He gave them up to their enemies.
55. **How were the Israelites governed in Canaan?**  
They were governed for a while by judges, and afterwards by kings.
56. **Mention two or three judges.**  
Gideon, Samson, and Samuel.
57. **What is remarkable of Samson?**  
Samson was the strongest man in the world.
58. **Mention some of the kings.**  
Saul, David and Solomon.
59. **What is remarkable of Solomon?**  
Solomon built a famous temple, for the worship of God at Jerusalem.

60. **When the Israelites continued to sin and provoke God, what became of them?**  
They were taken by their enemies and carried away to other countries.
61. **But did they not return again?**  
Many of them returned; but they have since been scattered abroad through the earth.
62. **What are those people now called?**  
They are generally called the Jews from Judah, one of Jacob's sons.
63. **Are not the people of Israel known by another name?**  
Yes; the whole nation, including Abraham, their ancestor, is known by the name of Hebrews.

## LESSON II.

### NEW TESTAMENT HISTORY

1. **Who is the Redeemer and Saviour of sinners?**  
Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
2. **How did He come into the world?**  
God prepared a body for Him and He was born of the Virgin Mary.
3. **At what time was Christ born?**  
Four thousand years after the world was made, and more than nineteen hundred years ago.
4. **Had not God long before promised to send the Saviour?**  
Yes; He had promised it by the prophets who foretold what should come to pass.

5. **When the time drew near, what notice did God give?**

He sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary that she should be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.

6. **Who was Mary?**

She was a virgin of the family of David, and was promised in marriage to Joseph, the carpenter.

7. **Where was Christ born?**

He was born in the city of Bethlehem and his mother laid him in a manger.

8. **Why was Jesus laid in a manger?**

Because his mother was away from home and could not obtain any other place.

9. **When Christ was born, how was it made known?**

Angels from heaven told the news to a company of shepherds; and a new star appeared to the wise men of the East.

10. **What honor did Simeon show him in the temple?**

He took the infant Jesus in his arms, and blessed God that his eyes had seen the Saviour.

11. **What took place when Jesus was twelve years old?**

He was found talking with the doctors and teachers in the temple.

12. **When did Christ begin to preach in public?**

At thirty years old, he was baptized by John the Baptist, and shortly afterwards began to preach.

13. **Who was John the Baptist?**

He was a man sent from God to preach repentance and baptize the people.

14. **What honor was due to Christ and His baptism?**

The Spirit of God descended on him like a dove, and the voice of God said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

15. **What became of Christ directly after His baptism?**

He was tempted by the devil, and overcame the tempter.

16. **What kind of life did Christ live?**

He lived a holy life doing good to men, working miracles, and preaching the gospel.

17. **Mention some of the miracles He performed.**

He cured the sick with a word; He drove out evil spirits from the bodies of men, and He raised the dead to life.

18. **What did He preach to the people?**

He preached that they should repent, and believe in Him; so that their sins might be pardoned and they might be happy forever.

19. **Did He not choose some men to preach His gospel, and to work miracles?**

Yes; He chose twelve, who were called apostles, and seventy disciples.

20. **Did not Jesus Christ suffer for our sins?**

Yes, He suffered for us in soul and body.

21. **How did He suffer in soul?**

Just before His death He felt such distress in the garden as to make Him sweat great drops of blood.

22. **How did He suffer in body?**

He was taken by wicked men and crowned with thorns: He was scourged and crucified.

23. What do you mean by His being crucified?

His hands and feet were nailed to a wooden cross, and there He hung in pain till He died.

24. How came Jesus thus to die?

He agreed with God, His Father, to die for the sins; and so He was given up to wicked men.

25. Who were the men who had Jesus put to death?

The teachers and rulers of the Jews, who hated His preaching, and were mad when they saw the people follow Jesus.

26. How did they get hold of Him?

They hired Judas, one of His apostles, to betray Him into the hands of their officers.

27. Did not Peter, one of the apostles, deny his Lord and Master?

Yes; he denied him through fear; but afterward he repented and wept bitterly.

28. Who condemned Christ to die?

Caiaphas the Jewish high priest, condemned Him, and Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor gave Him up to be crucified.

29. Were there any others crucified with Christ?

Yes; He was crucified between two thieves to make his death the more shameful.

30. What signs and wonders attended His death?

The sun was darkened for three hours; there was a great earthquake, and the veil of the temple was rent from top to bottom.

31. Who took care of His burial?  
A rich man named Joseph, and Nicodemus who believed in Jesus, buried Him in a new tomb cut out of rock.
32. How long did He lay in the grave?  
He was crucified on Friday and rose from the dead on the third day which was the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, more properly the Lord's Day.
33. How long did He then tarry on earth?  
He tarried forty days; and when He had given His apostles commandment to preach the Gospel to all people, He went up to Heaven.
34. How did He go up to Heaven?  
He went up in a bright cloud, in sight of His apostles.
35. What became of Judas who betrayed his Master?  
When he saw that Christ was condemned, he went and hanged himself.
36. What did the apostles do when Christ had left them?  
They went to Jerusalem to wait the coming of the Holy Spirit, which Christ promised.
37. And when did the Holy Spirit come upon the apostles, and other disciples?  
At the time called Pentecost, which was about seven days after Christ went to Heaven.
38. What effect did this produce?  
It enabled the apostles to preach the Gospel in the different languages of the world.
39. What success attended their preaching?  
Many thousands of Jews and Gentiles were converted and baptized.

**40. Who were the Gentiles?**

All the nations that were not Jews were called Gentiles.

**41. Did the apostles work miracles?**

Yes the same kind of miracles which Christ, their Master, had wrought.

**42. Were they not persecuted and treated very ill?**

Yes; they were put in prison and beaten, and most of them were at last put to death.

**43. Who was one of the chief persecutors?**

A young man named Saul, who was afterwards called Paul.

**44. Did he continue to be a persecutor?**

No; he was struck down by a blaze of light from Heaven and was converted to the faith of Christ.

**45. How did he go on afterwards?**

He became a great preacher of the Gospel and was named the apostle of the Gentiles.

**46. What was remarkable of the Apostle John?**

He was banished to an island called Patmos where he had many glorious visions, and wrote the Revelation.

**47. What were the disciples or followers of Christ called?**

They were called Christians because they believed in, and followed Christ.

**48. How can you become a Christian?**

By repenting of my sins, and believing in and following Christ, the only Saviour, who died that sinners might live.

## APPENDIX

### THE APOSTLES

**1. Who were the apostles?**

Those persons who were immediately called and chosen to the office of the ministry by Christ Himself, and upon whom was bestowed the gift of inspiration of miraculous power, and whose mission to preach the Gospel was universal.

**2. How many apostles did Christ choose?**  
Twelve.

**3. Does the apostolical office now exist?**  
No; not according to our belief.

**4. What is the belief of the African Methodist Episcopal Church touching this matter?**

That the extraordinary powers with which the apostles were endowed and which chiefly distinguished them as such, belonged peculiarly and exclusively to them, and which according to the wisdom of God, was essential to their success as the first preachers of the kingdom of righteousness.

**5. In what way was the miraculous power possessed by the disciples mainly exhibited?**

In their being suddenly given the ability to speak various languages, and in the healing of divers diseases. Even devils were subject to them.

**6. Did they transmit this power to their successors?**

There is no Scriptural proof showing that they did.



7. **What is the belief of the African Methodist Episcopal Church concerning this point?**

That there has been no transmission of the miraculous power possessed by the apostles.

8. **Has there been any succession to the apostolical office?**

No; it ceased with the death of the apostles and it could not exist after the circumstance and occasion of its creation had ceased.

## **THE CHURCH**

1. **What is the true Church?**

A congregation of faithful worshipers in which the pure word of God is preached, and the sacraments duly administered.

2. **What is the Holy Catholic Church?**

The Church general, or universal.

3. **Can any one sect or denomination justly claim to be the Catholic Church?**

No; because all true believers of whatever sect or name are members of the Church universal.

4. **What is the Roman Catholic Church?**

A particular denomination that claims to be superior to all other sects.

5. **Is its claim to superiority just?**

No; but is founded on error, superstition and bigotry.

6. **Can any sect rightly claim to be superior to all others?**

No; because Christ established but one Church.

7. **How, then, did the various sects of denominations arise?**

From difference of opinion among men concerning points of doctrine and forms of Church government.

8. Does the New Testament recognize the different sects?  
No; but asserts that all true believers are one in Christ Jesus.
9. Are there any points on which the various sects agree?  
Yes; all Evangelical Churches agree on what are called essential doctrines; such as authenticity of the Scriptures, justification by faith, the need of regeneration, the sufficiency of the atonement made by Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead, and rewards and punishment.
10. What is an Evangelical Church?  
One that is constructed in the spirit and true to the gospel.
11. By what is every true Christian Church distinguished?  
A firm belief in the gospel, a holy ministry and membership and the faithful practice of all the means of grace.
12. Does the Church with which we are connected possess these qualifications?  
It does; holding to them with all steadfastness of faith.

## THE A. M. E. CHURCH

1. With what denomination or branch of the Christian Church are we connected?  
The African Methodist Episcopal Church.
2. When was it organized?  
In the year 1816.
3. Where?  
Philadelphia, Penna.
4. By whom?  
Rev. Richard Allen and fifteen others.

5. **Why were they led to organize a separate denomination?**

Because they were denied equal privilege in worship and communion with the white Christians.

6. **Who was their first Bishop?**

Rev. Richard Allen.

7. **Through what organizations are the affairs of the African Methodist Episcopal Church conducted?**

The General, Annual, District and Quarterly Conferences.

8. **What body makes the laws for the government of the A. M. E. Church?**

The General Conference which convenes every four years.

9. **What place have the lay members of the Church in the General Conference?**

As many lay members as ministers are entitled to membership in the General Conference. This is called equal lay representation.

10. **In what book may the doctrine and usages of the African Methodist Episcopal Church be found?**

In the Discipline which contains the "Twenty-five Articles of Religion," the General Rules and many other valuable matters.

11. **What are some of the peculiar usages of African Methodism?**

The Itinerancy, the Class-meeting and the Lovefeast.

12. **What is the distinctive feature of African Methodism?**

The exaltation of the Brotherhood of Man.

- 13. What is meant by the Brotherhood of Man?**

That oneness and equality of Christian feeling and association which is implied in the saying of Christ: "All ye are brethren," and from the enjoyment of which no one is to be excluded on account of race or color.

- 14. Does the African Methodist Episcopal Church practice this?**

It does; welcoming to its communion and fellowship all who may desire to come.

- 15. What are the Benevolent Institutions of the African Methodist Episcopal Church?**

1. "Department of Home and Foreign Missions."
2. "The Women's Missionary Society."
3. "The A. M. E. Sunday School Union."
4. "The General Board of Education."
5. "The Allen Christian Endeavor Fellowship."

- 16. What other department has it?**

The Publication, Financial and Church Extension Society.

- 17. What is Children's Day?**

A special day set apart by the General Conference to raise money for the support of mission preachers, the Church Extension Society and the Sunday School Union.

- 18. When does it take place?**

The 2nd Sunday in June of each year.

- 19. Must all the Churches and Sunday Schools observe this day?**

They must according to the order of The General Conference.

20. **What is "Endowment Day?"**

A day established by the General Conference for the purpose of raising money to endow our educational institutions.

21. **When does it occur?**

The third Sunday in September of each year.

22. **Is it obligatory on all the churches to observe this day?**

It is, for the General Conference has so instructed.

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## THE MINISTRY

1. **What is the true Christian ministry?**

An order of men called by the Lord Jesus for the purpose of preaching the gospel, administering the sacrament and so governing the Church that believers may be built up in the most holy faith.

2. **How is this order of men divided according to the belief of the African Methodist Episcopal Church?**

Into Deacons and Elders.

3. **What does it recognize with regard to the office of the ministry?**

That there are three. Those of Deacons, Elders and Bishops.

4. **What pertaineth to the office of a Deacon in the A. M. E. Church?**

To read and expound the word of God, to assist in administering the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, to baptize, to marry, to instruct the young, to bury the dead, and to assist the Elder in his work.

5. **What pertaineth to the office of an Elder in the A. M. E. Church?**

To exercise all the functions of the office of a Deacon, to consecrate and administer the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and to exercise discipline in the Church.

6. **What pertaineth to the office of a Bishop in the A. M. E. Church?**

To take the general oversight and superintendence of the temporal and spiritual interest of the Church, to hold Annual Conferences, to ordain other ministers, to direct their labors, to see that every part of the general laws is enforced and maintained and to preside over the deliberations of the General Conference.

7. **Is the Bishopric an order or an office?**

It is an office according to the order and belief of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.

8. **Does any Methodist Church recognize such offices as Arch - Bishop, Cardinal, Pope, etc.?**

No.

9. **Does any Methodist Church recognize them?**

No.

10. **Is there any foundation for their existence in the word of God?**

No; but we believe they have been instituted by men to gratify a desire for vainglory and pomp; at least it appears to us that they are more ornamental than useful.

11. **What are the essential qualifications of every true Christian minister?**

A sound confession, a living faith in the power of the gospel, the consciousness

of being called by the Holy Spirit to the work of saving souls, and such a course of holy living as will be an example to the flock of Christ.

12. Should any person not possessing these qualifications enter the Christian Ministry?

No; to do so is wicked presumption, and to store up damnation against the day of wrath.

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## GENERAL CONFESSION

In the administration of the Lord's Supper after the Invitation is read, the Ritual, says:

Then shall this general confession be made by the minister in the name of all those who are minded to receive the Holy Communion, both he and all the people devoutly kneeling and saying:

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; we acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, or deed against thy divine Majesty provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings, the remembrance of them is grievous unto us. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Thy name through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## EXAMPLES OF PRAYER FOR THE YOUNG

### Morning Prayer

Almighty God, my heavenly Father, I thank thee that thou hast taken care of me the past night, and that I am alive and well this morning. Save me, O God, from evil all this day and may I love and serve Thee always. Bestow on me, I pray Thee, every good thing which I need for my body and soul; assist me by Thy Holy Spirit to do Thy will; make me always afraid to offend Thee, and let me live in Thy fear and die in Thy favor, and at last be saved in Heaven, for Christ's sake. Amen.

### Evening Prayer

O Lord God, who knowest all things. Thou seest me by night as well as by day. I pray Thee, for Christ's sake, forgive me whatever I have done amiss this day and keep me safe this night. Bless I beseech Thee, all my friends; \*do good to them at all times and in all

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\*Here mention father, mother and others.



places, and help me always to serve them in love. And when I have done Thy will here by Thy grace assisting me, may I be fully prepared for death and the world to come, through Christ my blessed Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

### Morning Prayer

O Lord, I give Thee thanks that Thou hast kept me during the night, and brought me to see another morning. Help me to pass this day in Thy fear, and to remember that Thine eye is always upon me; that Thou hearest all I say, seest all I do, and knowest all that is in my thoughts. I confess before thee, O God, that I am a sinful creature.

I have often been foolish and disobedient, and I deserve to be punished for my sins. But Thou, O Lord are merciful; Thou hast promised pardon to those who repent and believe in Jesus Christ. Be merciful to me, I pray Thee, and pardon my transgressions. Give me true and deep repentance for my sins, and cause me to hate every evil way. Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within me. Help me to believe with my whole heart, in Jesus Christ and commit my soul to Thy mercy through Him. O righteous Father, grant me Thy Holy Spirit to dwell within me. May He instruct, sanctify, and preserve me to the kingdom of Jesus. Be thou gracious to all my friends and enemies, have mercy on all those who are dead in sin, and save them with me and with all for whom I should pray, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

## Evening Prayer

O God, I bow down before Thee, and would lift up my soul in thanksgiving for all the favors of another day. I implore Thy tender mercies in the forgiveness of all my sins, of thought, word or deed, since the morning. Pardon me O Lord, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who died upon the cross for sinners, and adopt me into Thy family as one of Thy children.

May Thy Spirit be poured down upon me. May He shed Thy love abroad in my heart, and fill my mind with all good thoughts. May He teach me to love Thy word, Thy people and Thy house. May He help me to honor my parents, my minister, and my teachers. May He make me wise unto salvation, and prepare me for eternity. If I die young, may I be found ready, being washed from my sins in Jesus' Blood. I ask the same mercies for all my friends. Watch over us during this night. Preserve and bless us, and let no evil come near our dwelling. May we be refreshed by rest and awake in the morning to Thy service. Grant likewise, O blessed Lord, that when days and nights with us have ended, we may sleep in Jesus, and awake in the morning of the resurrection, to join the redeemed of the Lord and spend an eternal day, in Thy presence, service and praise, for His sake.—Amen.

## The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart; for they shall see God.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (Matt. 5:3-10.)

### **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary; suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried: the third day he arose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty from whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and life everlasting. Amen.





